

Educate for life

Dear Parent/carers,

As the end of term approaches we wanted to thank you for your support throughout this year. We have been extremely proud of how the students have approached their first year of studies on the GCSE courses. We have seen the Year 10s gain confidence in their learning and this will have impacted positively on the recently completed in-class assessments. It will be important for us to use this latest set of progress data to offer targeted intervention from the beginning of year 11, the plans for which will be communicated in the Autumn term.

Students are aware of our Key Stage 4 routines and high expectations for quality academic work, uniform and behaviour, we ask that you please ensure that that your child returns in the new academic year, with everything they need to succeed. Our uniform policy has had some changes, see below. When students return in year 11 we will continue to support your child's wellbeing and develop good study habits, including effective revision techniques. This will allow the students to enjoy the challenge of their courses and manage the additional pressure that the final GCSE year brings. Morning tutor time will become a key part of our study skills and revision offer and now will cover academic subject content to support further progress in core subjects.

Uniform

In response to student and parent voice we have reviewed our uniform expectations throughout this academic year ahead of September. Thank you to all those focus groups who gave feedback.

We are keen for the school ethos to be based on positive conversations about learning. We know that a uniform provides equality between students regardless of background and culture however clothing expectations in the workplace have shifted significantly since Covid and it seems reasonable for schools to reflect this in some way. Research tells us that how the uniform is worn has no direct influence on educational achievement but we look to retain a uniform for the equality it provides the student community.

Therefore we are making the following changes to how the uniform is worn from September 2024. We anticipate this will strengthen relationships with all stakeholders whilst keeping the focus on educating for life and giving clarity of expectation. We want to maintain a positive culture and look to have more conversations about learning than uniform. Thank you to all students and parents for their feedback on this important matter.

Blazers: Blazers can be worn or carried. This removes the expectation to wear blazers in the corridors and classrooms. Students must carry their blazer to demonstrate they have it with them as they will be expected to wear it on certain specific occasions and it is important that every student has one CEC crested item of uniform for safeguarding purposes both on and off site. We are also aware some students like to wear their blazer to store belongings.

Skirts: Skirts must be worn to the knee unless worn with plain black tights or plain black leggings worn underneath the skirt.

Ties: Ties will now become optional for staff and students.

Other expectations remain as before. This includes all shirts and blouses being tucked in and natural look makeup. For more details see the school website.

Phones

In light of the Department for Education updated guidance on mobile phones we are consulting parents on their opinions of young people and mobile phones.

According to the DfE "Every school has a duty to create an environment that is calm, safe and free from distraction so all pupils, whatever their background, can learn and thrive. One of the greatest challenges facing schools is the presence of mobile phones. Today, by the age of 12, 97% of pupils own a mobile phone. Mobile phones risk unnecessary distraction, disruption and diversion. Nationally one in three secondary school pupils report that mobile phones are used in most lessons without permission. This not only distracts the pupil using the phone, but disrupts the lesson for a whole class, and diverts teachers' efforts away from learning."

We are reviewing our mobile phone policy and would welcome your feedback. The survey will close on Friday 6th September 2024. [Click here for the survey.](#)

Finally, we would like to wish you an enjoyable summer and we are very much looking forward to welcoming our new Year 11 students back into the Academy on Thursday 5th September 2024.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Brown', with a stylized, cursive flourish.

Mr A. Brown
Assistant Principal